



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE - Secretariat

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PRESS RELEASE

India to host climate change conference

New Delhi, 30 September 2002 – The Government of India and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed today a Host Country Agreement (HCA) that finalized practical arrangements for next month's high-level conference on global warming.

The conference, known officially as the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention, is expected to attract some 5,000 participants – including over 100 ministers – from the Convention's 186 Parties. It will be held at the Vigyan Bhawan Conference Centre in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002.

The international community will use the meeting to prepare for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. Delegates will also focus on key concerns of developing countries, such as how to gain better access to low-emitting technologies and how to cope with the expected impacts of climate change.

Mr. T.R. Baalu, Minister of Environment and Forests will sign the HCA for the host government. Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary of the Convention, will sign on behalf of the UNFCCC.

“India has a leadership role to play in the climate change arena, and we are extremely pleased to have been invited this year to the vibrant city of New Delhi for our annual meeting. In return, I hope the people of India will benefit from news about our meeting and that they will gain a greater understanding of climate change and its importance for their future,” said Ms. Waller-Hunter.

Note to journalists: For further information about facilities at COP 8, please contact Axel Wüstenhagen at +49-228-815-2770 or awuestenhagen@uno.de. For information on accreditation, contact Michel Smitall at +49-228-815-1005 or msmitall@unfccc.int. For interviews and other information, contact Michael Williams at +41-22-9178242 or michael.williams@unep.ch. See also: unfccc.int